

Dr Adrian Jarvis is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Liverpool, before which he was for fifteen years Curator of Port History at Merseyside Maritime Museum, a post in which he was able to spend almost all his time on research and publication, working chiefly on the huge Mersey Docks & Harbour Board collection in the Maritime Archives and Library there. His particular interests have hinged on the machinery of management and the engineering of the port, closely linked fields in which the key question is often 'Yes, but how did things *really* work?' He has published extensively in these and other areas and, with Professor Robert Lee, was one of the initiators of the Mercantile Liverpool Project. He is working on a new general history of the Port of Liverpool.

His interest in Samuel Smiles arose from his involvement since the 1980s in engineering history and the way it has been written, which led him to the belief that Smiles has been at best partially understood and that at worst his views have been positively falsified. That belief evolved into a spare-time project which eventually resulted in publication of his *Samuel Smiles and the Construction of Victorian Values*. (Sutton Publishing, 1997)

AEJ.